

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

VITTER, David (Republican)
Representative, 1st District, Louisiana
Elected May 1999 to the 106th Congress
in a special election; Sworn in 8 June 1999
Reelected (2000) to the 107th Congress



BACKGROUND

Born: New Orleans, Louisiana -- 3 May 1961
Home: Metairie, Louisiana
Marital status: Married (Wendy) - 4 children
Religion: Catholic
Education: Harvard Univ., A.B., 1983; Oxford Univ., B.A., 1985; Tulane School of

Law, J.D., 1988

Military: None

Profession: Professor, attorney

Political: Louisiana House, 1992-99. Defeated former Gov David Treen (R) in a May 1999 special election with 51% of the vote to succeed Rep Bob Livingston (R), who resigned 28 Feb 1999. Reelected in 2000 with 80% of the vote, defeating Michael Armato (D) and in 2002 with 81.5%.

Rep Vitter, a conservative, fits the mold of many of the New South Republicans. Almost all of the top elected officials in the State, including some democrats, endorsed former Gov Treen in the special election and only one member of the Louisiana delegation called to congratulate him.

In the 106th Congress, introduced bill to force the US Gov't to upgrade its missile defense technology and test-fire it within two years. Sponsored successful amdt that prohibited any funding to be used for any activity of the Commission to Implement the Memorandum of Understanding Relating to the Treaty Between the United States and the USSR on the Limitations of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems. Also sponsored successful amdt increasing funding for high intensity drug trafficking areas program. Complained that under President Clinton, defense spending has not even kept pace with inflation. Criticized lax security at Los Alamos Lab. Sponsored an amdt to express the view that the State Dept must block China's state-run news agency, Xinhua News Agency, from occupying a building it bought that overlooks the Pentagon.

In the 107th Congress, introduced H.R. 1281, Security Against Nuclear Enemies Act (SANE), in contrast to Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD). Also introduced H.R. 1282, Realistic Tests for Realistic Threats National Security Act (RT2), which would test the Army's THAAD land-based system and the Navy's Theater Wide sea-based system against the most aggressive threats. Participated in a five-day tour of missile defense projects. Introduced H.R. 311, to clarify federal law governing the rules under which military absentee ballots can be invalidated. Sponsored amendment to HR 1, Leave No Child Behind Act, which would force any high school that receives Federal aid to allow military recruiters on campus. Drew ire by suggesting that recruiters should be allowed to call the students at their homes.

Additional: Former Rhodes scholar

AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS -- Subc on Military Construction; Commerce, Justice, State,
and
the Judiciary; Foreign Operations; Budget